new mines, modernisation of existing mines, upgradation of technology, ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities, better capacity utilisation, improvement in productivity and maintaining good industrial relations.

(d) The Government had accepted the recommendation of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy to increase competition in the coal sector. Accordingly a proposal is under consideration to permit any Indian company to mine coal without the restriction of captive consumption.

Naval base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2648. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a Far East Maritime (Naval) Command based in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, what other steps are being taken to strengthen the Navy to meet the challenges to country's security and have more aircraft carriers for the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The proposal to set up the Far Eastern Naval Command (FENC) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is in an advanced stage of consideration of the Government.

(b) Adequate and continuous attention is always given to keep the Indian Navy abreast with defence preparedness, to meet the challenges to the security of the country. The induction of the hardware and equipment is a continuous process and is done keeping in mind the challenges and security perceptions.

Complaints against officers of the Defence Ministry

2649. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three services Chiefs made any complaints against certain officers of the Defence Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In a large and complex establishment such as defence, there are bound to be differences of opinion among senior officers which get reflected from time to time in individual complaints. However, there are channels through which these matters are resolved.

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद का गठन

2650. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा 19 नवंबर, 1998 को गठित की गई राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के विचारार्थ विषय क्या हैं;

(ख) क्या उक्त परिषद का गठन करते समय श्री के०सी० पंत की अध्यक्षता वाले कार्य-दल की रिपोर्ट को ध्यान में रखा गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो पंत समिति की रिपोर्ट की मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या हैं;

(घ) श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह के प्रधानमंत्रित्व काल में गठित की गई राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद की तुलना में यह परिषद किस प्रकार से बेहतर है; और

(ङ) यह परिषद राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की मौजूदा चुनौतियों का किस दार्शनिक आधार पर सामना करेगी?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के कार्यों में देश की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के सभी पहलुओं की समीक्षा और मानीटरी करना, दीर्घकालिक पूर्वानुमान लगाना और नीतिगत विकल्पों पर विचार करना शामिल होगा। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग के रूप में सामरिक नीति ग्रुप अपने एक प्राथमिक कार्य के रूप में सामरिक रक्षा पुनरीक्षा करेगा।

(ख) और (ग) राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के गठन से संबंधित सरकारी निर्णय में के० सी० पंत कार्यदल की सिफारिशों को ध्यान में रखा गया था।

(घ) प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा यथानुमोदित राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के स्वरूप में सदस्यता सभी स्तरों पर काफी व्यापक है; राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद का संचालन राष्ट्रीय

सुरक्षा सलाहकार के जरिए किया जाता है और सामरिक नीति ग्रुप और राष्ट्रीय सलाहकार बोर्ड की सदस्यता अब अधिक व्यापक और चुनिंदा है। इस नये स्वरूप में देश द्वारा सामना की जा रही समकालीन वास्तविकताओं और चुनौतियों को ध्यान में रखा गया है।

(ङ) देश के महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय हितों को समग्र व समन्वित तरीके से बढ़ाना ही इस राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के दृष्टिकोण का मूल तात्त्विक आधार होगा।

Discontentment among Navy officers

2651. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious discontentment among the senior officers of navy about the personnel policy being followed by Administration;

(b) the number of complaints received from the officers regarding their promotion which are pending;

(c) the number of cases pending in the courts; and

(d) what action Government have taken to redress the grievances of the officers many of whom are suffering silently?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There has been some discontentment in the Navy in relation to postings and promotions of officers in the recent past.

(b) Four statutory complaints are pending with Government concerning promotion of officers.

(c) According to information furnished by Naval Headquarters, 34 cases are pending in various courts.

(d) All redressal of grievances applications received by the Government are carefully examined by the Government and decisions taken in accordance with established law, rules and norms.

Upgradation of MIG planes

2652. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India shelves plan to upgrade MIGs", as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 18th November, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the upgradation plans of MIGs of the IAF have been further delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensures upgradation of MIGs in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. However, there is no truth in the Press Report.

(b) and (c) As per the original plan the upgradation work was to be completed by 2002. The same has been delayed by a year due to delay in completion of design & development work on the aircraft, by the Russians.

(d) During the 5th Indo-Russian Technical Co-operation Meeting held in November, 1998 a Protocol has been signed with the Russians to the effect that design and development work on the aircraft would be completed by July 1999. The other important areas affecting the progress of the upgradation programme have also been resolved to ensure the implementation of the programme in a time bound manner as per the revised schedule. The issue of transfer of technology for upgradation of MIG aircraft is being taken up at a government to government level.

Indo-US Talks

2653. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Indo-US talks USA has insisted on knowing the locations etc. of India's nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, whether this has proved to be an hurdle in the progress of talks; and